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DEFENSE RESTS IN \$150,000 SUIT

Rebuttal Begins in Cigarette-Cancer Case

Tobacco company attorneys Thursday concluded the presentation of their defense in the cigarette-cancer case being tried before Federal Judge Herbert W. Christenberry.

Attorneys for Mrs. Victoria St. Pierre Lartigue, who claims that the cancer from which her husband, Frank J. Lartigue, died in 1955 was caused by his heavy smoking, called on rebuttal witness Thursday and indicated that they will continue with rebuttal when court resumes at 10 a. m. Friday.

Mrs. Lartigue is seeking damages of \$150,000 from the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and the Liggett and Meyers Tobacco Company. Evidence brought out during the trial was to the effect that Lartigue died at the age of 65 after smoking since he was nine years old.

DIRECTOR QUESTIONED

Most of Thursday's session was taken up with a continuation of the cross examination of Dr. Clarence Cook Little, scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, who was placed on the stand by the defendants Wednesday.

Dr. Little is a former managing director of the American Cancer Society. Under cross examination by Melvin Belli, an attorney for the plaintiff, he said

that he has not followed the work of the society since he left it.

When Belli made a reference to the witness' feelings about the "integrity" of the society, Dr. Little stated that he would rather not comment on its integrity and added that he did not think that "integrity" was the proper word to be used.

He said that when he left the society it was dominated by medical men but later it became controlled by lay officials.

\$4,000,000 FOR RESEARCH

Dr. Little repeated what he said Wednesday to the effect that he and all of the members of the research committee have open minds on the subject of any possible relationship between smoking and lung cancer but that every member of the committee feels that no relationship has been shown.

He testified that the TIRC, which has contributed over \$4,000,000 to research in the past five years, contributes to scientists who are not pledged to any particular point of view. The committee does not know the personal opinions of those who receive grants until the results of their research are published.

Dr. Little also told the court that grants are never given to individuals but to the scientific institutions with which they are connected.

'WILL NOT CRY WOLF'

"If we obtain proof of a relationship we will tell the industry. We will not cry wolf when we don't know there is any wolf there as yet," he asserted.

With reference to biological experiments, Dr. Little told the court that he feels they are completely "overused" in an effort to show a relationship.

Asked by Belli if they do not arouse suspicions, the witness said that they "make me interested. Interested enough to go on with research."

The only rebuttal witness called by the plaintiff's attorneys was Dr. Edgar H. Little, head of the department of radiology at the Ochsner clinic. He showed X-rays taken of Lartigue's lungs before he died and testified that he diagnosed the cancer as "primary" or as having originated in the lung.

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